

Please amend Claims 13 and 15 as follows. A mark-up of the amended claim as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.211(c)(ii) is attached hereto as Appendix A.

A1  
13. (Amended) A composition comprising a variant HBV or variant HbsAg according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

A2  
15. (Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of HBV infection said method comprising administering to a subject an amount of a variant HBV or variant HbsAg according to any one of claims 1 to 12, said amount being effective to induce an immune response to said variant HBV.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15 and 17 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to reduce claim number.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN LOCARNINI, et al.

BY: 

DANIEL A. MONACO  
Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP.  
One Logan Square  
18<sup>th</sup> and Cherry Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996  
(215) 988-3312  
(215) 988-2757 – Fax  
Attorney for the Applicants